

Our Mission

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) is a cross-disability, intergenerational, and multicultural disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities that value the dignity, equality, freedom, and worth of every human being. We do this by building disability identity, culture, and pride; creating opportunities for personal and community transformation; and partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected.

About SVILC

SVILC is one of 28 community-based, non-residential Independent Living Centers (ILC) in California, and over 400 across the nation.

SVILC is unique because it is consumer controlled. Over 70 percent of the highly-skilled staff and board members are persons with disabilities who have a first-hand understanding of disability related issues. This understanding embodies a core motto practiced at SVILC, "Nothing about us without us!"



Contact Information

Main Office

25 N. 14th Street, Ste. 1000
San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408.894.9041 ✳
TTY: 669.231.4771
Fax: 669.231.4795
Email: info@svilc.org

Branch Office

7881 Church St., Suite C
Gilroy, CA 95020
Phone: 408.843.9100
TTY: 669.231.4771
Fax: 408.904.7031
Email: info@svilc.org

Hours for both offices are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Closed 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch



Find SVILC on the web at www.svilc.org.



SVILC practices access for all. Contact SVILC within three business days for accessibility or accommodation requests.

Also, SVILC is a scent-free environment.

Please refrain from wearing scented products.

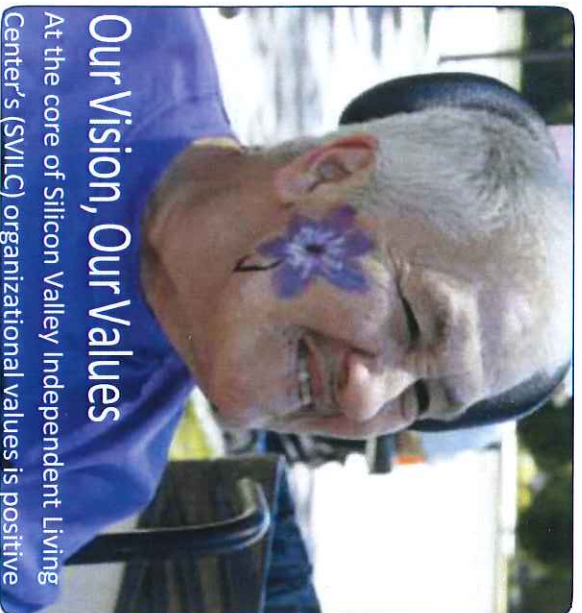
This brochure is available in multi-language and accessible formats upon request.

Photographs by Suzanne L. Levine © 2011
and Terry Schmidt © 2011.



Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

Promoting interdependent living and full inclusion
for people with disabilities in Santa Clara County



Our Vision, Our Values

At the core of Silicon Valley Independent Living Center's (SVILC) organizational values is positive

disability identity, culture and pride. This pride is transformative in the belief that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity that should be celebrated.

This strong sense of pride is supported by additional SVILC values that commit to:

- Transforming ourselves and each other
- Equal access
- Equality and social justice
- Self-determination and advocacy
- Interdependence and community
- Inclusion and diversity

Disability Justice

The disability rights movement's quest for civil and human rights continues to today. In recent years, however, another dimension of this struggle has emerged led by disabled people of color: disability justice. To this end, SVILC is committed to advocating not just for people with disabilities, but also for the human rights and social justice of all people.

Services

For Individuals with Disabilities

- Information and Referral/Assistance
- Peer Support groups
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Advocacy, including self-advocacy training
- Housing referral, workshops, home modifications, advocacy and emergency financial assistance
- Personal Assistant Services (assistance to locate, hire, and manage a homecare worker)
- Assistive Technology information, resources, and Device Loan Library
- Transition assistance from a long term care facility into integrated community living settings
- Benefit information and referral
- Youth pre-employment skills training
- Accessible computer lab

Systems Change Advocacy and Community Organizing

- More accessible, affordable and integrated housing
- Speaking out against budget cuts to essential services
- Increased accessible, affordable transit services
- Partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected
- Challenging the negative stereotypes and stigmas of disabled people

For Community Organizations, Business and Government Agencies

- Disability and diversity training
- Complying with ADA standards
- Accessibility surveys
- Educational and disability culture workshops

How to Apply

- All services are free. Anyone who lives in or near Santa Clara County and has a disability or functional limitation may apply for SVILC services.
- Individuals must request services for themselves; those unable to do so may request services through a chosen representative.
- Attend an Intake Workshop to learn about the services and opportunities available at SVILC. Appointments available by request.
- We work with each person to create an Independent Living Plan (ILP) that meets personal needs and goals.



Disability rights marchers in Washington, DC

In Their Own Words

"Words cannot express my gratitude for your assistance in helping me get an electric wheelchair lift so I can enter and exit my home. Thank you for making seniors and the disabled be able to stay in their homes." –Kay B.

What is Assistive Technology?

How can Assistive Technology help me?

Assistive technology, or AT, is a term used to describe ability tools or adaptive devices that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities to live or work more independently.

For more information contact:

Escalante, AT & DLL Coordinator

Email: joe@svilc.org

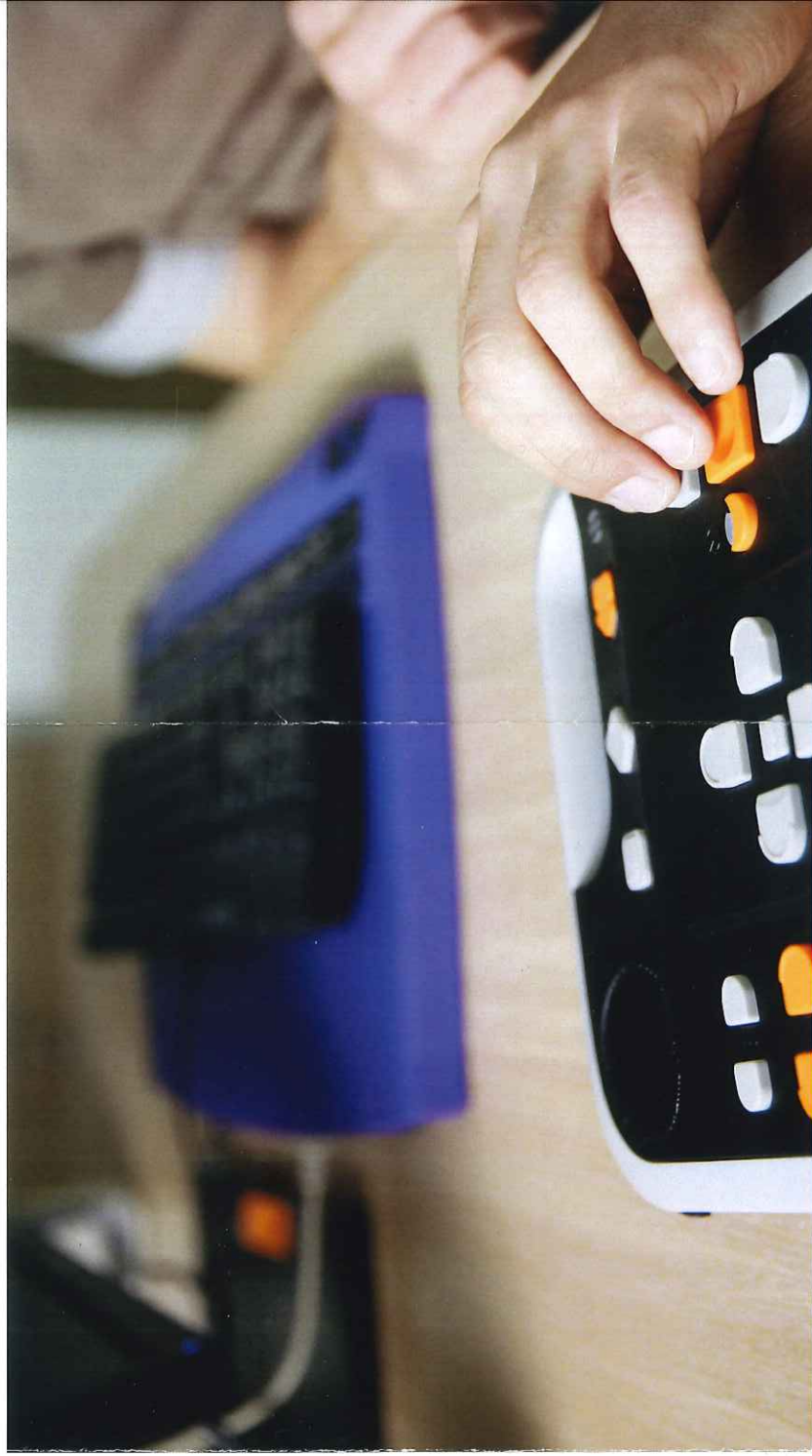
Phone: (408) 894-9041



www.svilc.org



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Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

25 N. 14th Street, Suite 1000

San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 894-9041

TTY: (669) 231-4793

FAX: (408) 904-7345

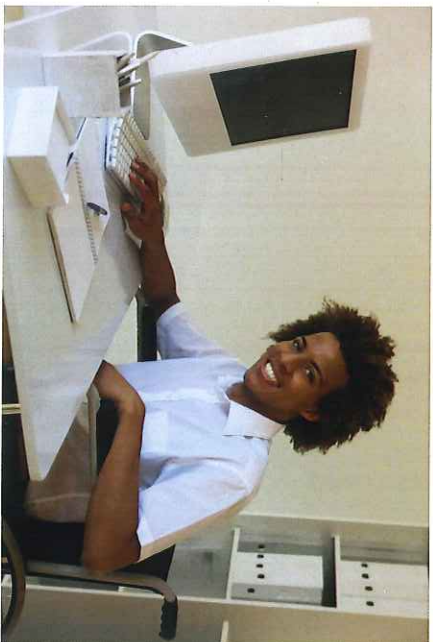
info@svilc.org www.svilc.org

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alternate formats upon request.

Assistive Technology

About SVILC

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) is a non-profit, non-residential organization which serves all people with all types of disabilities, including seniors with disabling conditions, who live in Santa Clara County. SVILC provides residents with support tools and resources needed to live interdependently, and advocates for policies that ensure equal access and opportunity for all. SVILC is a peer-driven agency run by and for people with disabilities. As one of 28 independent living centers across the State of California, we are committed to the principles of self-advocacy, personal empowerment, and independent living.



SVILC is a cross-disability, intergenerational, and multicultural disability justice organization that creates fully inclusive communities that value the dignity, equality, freedom, and worth of every human being. We do this by building disability identity, culture and pride; creating opportunities for personal and community transformation; and partnering with others to ensure that civil and human rights are protected.

SVILC was founded in 1976 by a small group of people with disabilities as an Independent Living Center (ILC) to serve the needs of Santa Clara County residents with disabilities.

Device Lending Library and Ability Tools



Ability Tools

SVILC is a member of the AT Network.

The AT Network connects Californians with disabilities to the devices and services they need to live independently. For more information about the AT Network, call toll free (800) 390-2699 TTY: (800) 900-0706 or atnet.org.



Device Lending Library

SVILC maintains a lending library of over 200 AT items. Anyone may borrow a device free of charge and try it before buying it, use it to compare similar devices, or to use while a personal device is being repaired. SVILC is also one of 12 Device Lending Libraries located throughout California. All residents of California may access the Device Lending Library (DLL). More information can be found on the AT Network Item Exchange Library: exchange.abilitytools.org or by calling SVILC.



Assistive Technology Service

Computer Training and Assistive Technology

SVILC offers basic computer training, and, specific voice dictation software training, allowing you full control of the computer hands-free.

Workshops and Seminars

SVILC periodically hosts events for manufacturers AT to highlight new products, or provide demonstrations and trainings for currently available AT software and hardware.

Home Modifications

SVILC has partnerships with other agencies that provide resources for those in need of home modifications, i.e. installation of ramps, lifts, grab bars, etc and/or minor construction projects to achieve accessibility. Home ownership preferred.

Financial Assistance

SVILC has partnership with an organization to apply for financial resources that can assist you in acquiring for AT devices that will promote independent living.

Apply for Services

SVILC does not charge people for applying for our programs and services. To qualify for services, one must: be a person with a significant disability and in Santa Clara County or prefer to receive services Santa Clara County.

How to apply for services:

- (1) Contact SVILC at (408) 894-9041;
- (2) Make an appointment for an Intake. After the intake, you are eligible to receive any and all SVILC services.

Office Hours: Mondays - Fridays, 9am - 5pm

about SVILC

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC) is a non-profit consumer-based, residential agency providing a wide range of services to a growing population of people with disabilities and seniors.

SVILC strongly supports the right and needs of people with disabilities to live in integrated communities of their choice, with equitable access to support. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) reinforced the "integrated setting" requirement in 1990, and in 1999 was further interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Olmstead decision.

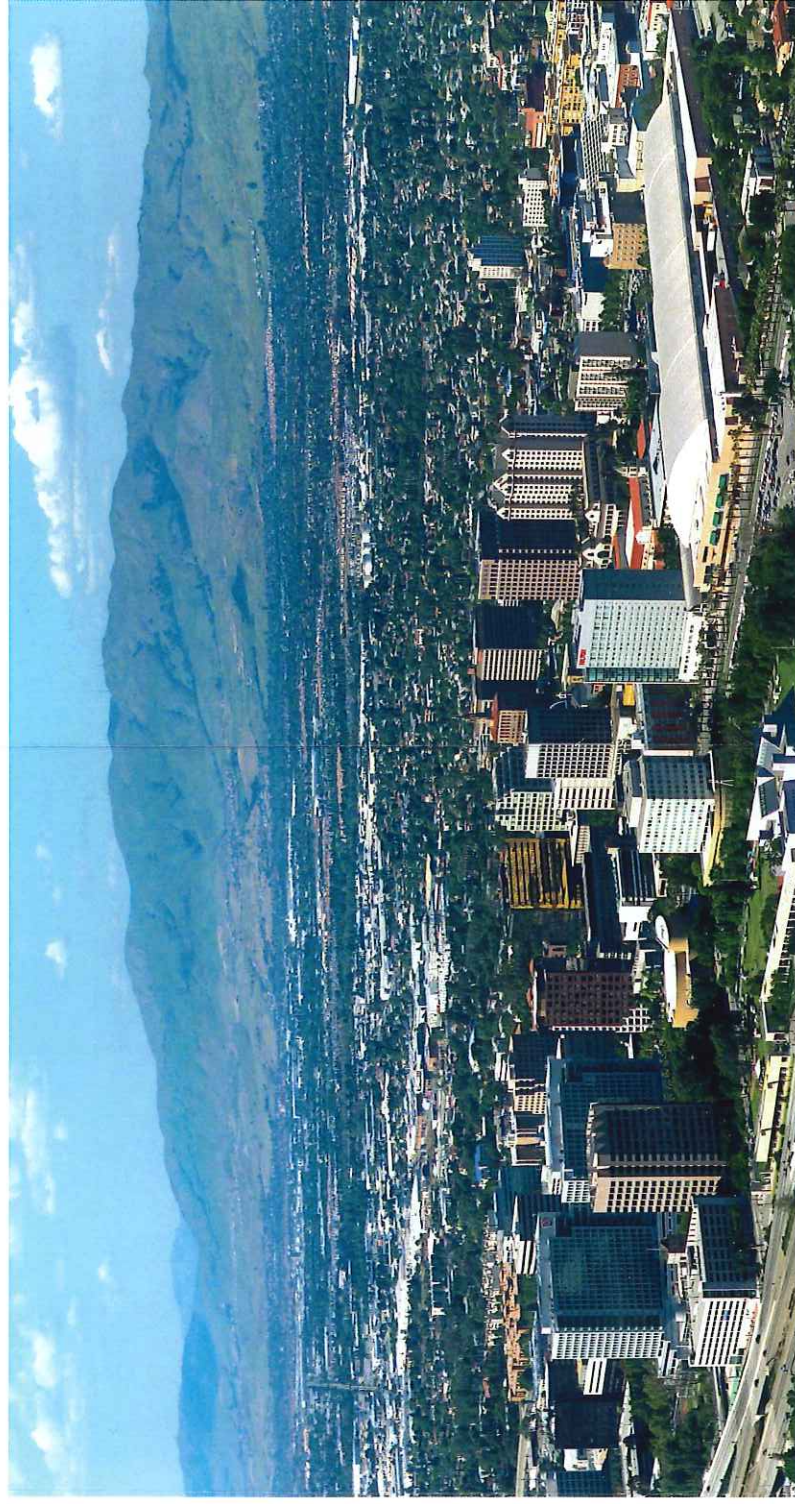
As a social justice organization, SVILC provides residents and support tools and resources needed to live interdependently, advocates for policies that ensure equal access and opportunity for all.



www.svilc.org



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Housing Services Program

Housing Services

A home of one's own - either rented or owned - is the heart of independence for people with disabilities.

SVILC's Housing Program for Persons with Disabilities is designed to address the continuing problem of the lack of affordable, integrated, and accessible housing in Santa Clara County and the negative impact this has on individuals with disabilities of all types and ages. This unique program is the only housing and advocacy service of its kind in the County of Santa Clara, serving the needs of persons with all disabilities, backgrounds and program specific ages, who choose to live independently.

Through 1-on-1 or group workshops, SVILC's Housing Coordinators provide the following services:

- Emergency / Rental / Deposit Funding Assistance (based on funding availability)
- Information and Referral / Assistance to Independent Living (IL) and Community Services
- Housing Search Assistance to find a stable, independent living solution in the community
- Landlord / Tenant Dispute Resolution
- Housing Advocacy to ensure that people with disabilities' needs are considered when planning is coordinated for new housing or development improvement projects



Apply for Services

SVILC does not charge people for applying for our programs and services. To qualify for our Housing and many other services, one must:

- (1) be a person with a significant disability and
- (2) live in Santa Clara County or prefer to receive services in Santa Clara County.

How to apply for services:

- (1) Contact SVILC at (408) 894-9041
- (2) Make an appointment for an Intake.

After the Intake, you are eligible to receive SVILC's services that will meet your specific needs.



Housing Workshops

SVILC offers year-round affordable in-office and community setting housing workshops.

Housing Orientation

This workshop will provide an overview of SVILC's core services, and an in-depth housing search assistance covering basic overview of tenant/landlord rights and responsibilities, and community resource available for housing search assistance.

SVILC's Main San Jose Office

Every Friday at 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Palo Alto Services Center

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Mountain View Senior Center

Every 2nd Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Milpitas Barbara Lee Senior Center

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Santa Clara Public Library

Housing Help in the Library

Every 1st Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Housing Application Assistance

This workshop will provide expert, step-by-step advice on what to expect through the application process, including review of a housing search process, final assistance procedures, and rental application additional support.

SVILC's Main San Jose Office

Every Tuesday at 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

For more information, please call SVILC at 408-894-9041.

1. The experience of those with disabilities experiencing City parks, community centers, etc.

Pavements	<p>Streets (residential and city), sidewalks, walk ways in parks, and all public walking spaces must be clear of debris (excess leaves, branches, trash), scooters (i.e. Bird, Lime), tables, signage, etc.</p> <p>Needing more updated curb-cuts in residential streets. Lack of curb cuts forces individuals who use walkers and wheelchairs to use driveways, thus unsafely being in a street with moving cars. Also, lack of parking causes many cars to block driveways, and sidewalks, disallowing point previously.</p> <p>Up-keep on pavements that are lifted by tree grown/earthquakes, or cracked pavement.</p>
Public Buildings	<p>Consistent and timely upkeep on public elevators. Staff sensitivity training to work with disabled population. (i.e. <i>staff member told individual using a cane to climb the stairs to 4th floor in jury house as elevator isn't working</i>)</p> <p>New construction and remodeled buildings should have Universal Design principles, as well as clear, simple, pictograph navigation signage, and hearing induction loops in conference rooms and auditoriums for use with hearing aids</p> <p>Available manual wheelchairs or evacuation chairs at all stairwells in multi-level buildings</p>
Community Centers / Parks	<p>Availability of programs in afternoons and evenings for the working disabled population. (i.e. Adaptive P.E. is scheduled in mornings only)</p> <p>Increased accessible parking spaces – more than ADA regs require, as many people of all ages with disabilities as well as older adults need closer parking to building entrances</p>
Housing	<p>More affordable-accessible housing with universal design & visitability features (zero clearance entries, wider doors and hallways, wider bathrooms, reinforced walls for grab bars, open sink/no cabinets)</p>

2. The reasons to consider accessibility (in addition to equity) – legal reasons come to mind – (CA Building Standards Code and Unruh Civil Rights Act – energy efficiency and disability access regs)

- Being more inclusive to the disabled population of today and the future.
- Understanding that disability isn't just physical. There are many types of disability you cannot see affecting millions of people. (i.e. arthritis, visual impairment, hearing, COPD, aging conditions).
- If you give access to the public, it means ALL of the public.

3. Your top 3-5 recommendations to the City to help fix the problem and why those 3-5 instead of others

- **Keeping sidewalks clear of obstacles**, esp. with electric scooter rentals extensively hitting the market

- **Completing upgraded curb cuts**, esp. in high traffic/transportation hub/senior residential areas, in a timely manner
- **Developing a City ordinance on Universal Design** to be required in all government subsidized (city, county, state, or federally funded) housing

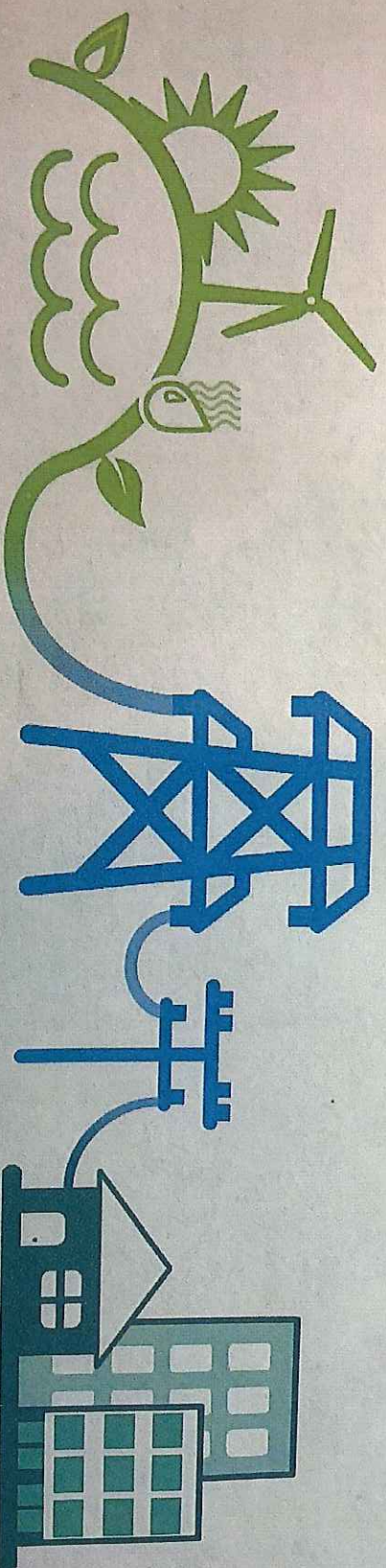
Why CCA for San José?

To meet local, state, and international greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals:

- Envision San José 2040 General Plan
- San José Green Vision (Goals 1, 2, 3)
- California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32, SB 32)
- Paris Climate Change Agreement



How Community Choice Aggregation Works



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Electric Generation

SAME SERVICE AS ALWAYS

Electric Delivery

YOUR COMMUNITY CHOICE

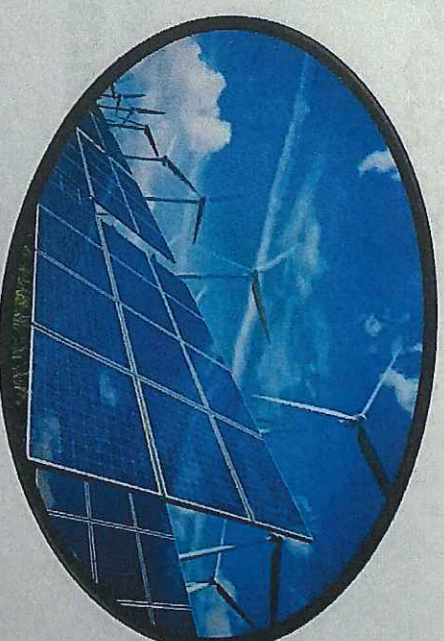
A Greener Electric Option

Business Plan Summary and Recommendations

- Financially viable
- Risks manageable
- Would provide a variety of opportunities and benefits
- Consider refining SJCE goals to account for:
 - Economic Development Goals
 - Risk Management Goals
 - Environmental Goals
 - Customer Rate Goals

Opportunities with a CCA

- Choice of Energy Providers
- GHG Emissions Reductions
- More Renewable Energy
- Local Jobs
- Local Control



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY RIGHTS DISCUSSION

The *Community Choice Aggregation* program, which draws in potential environmental and sustainability energy partners, ensures:

1. Choice of Providers
2. GHG Emissions Reductions
3. More Renewable Energy
4. LOCAL JOBS!
5. LOCAL CONTROL!
6. LOWER COSTS!
7. PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES!

A plethora of questions exist about the future of our sustainability and environmental [Human] rights under city contractors – some as wolves in sheep’s clothing – operating questionably within such new and changing programs like CCA. Many outer forces are affecting our city’s CCA compliance and selection strategy as well. Most recently, city-provider energy rules have changed – in addition to PG&E filing for bankruptcy on Monday – equating to costs (Power Charge Indifference Adjustment, commodity cost increases, transmission maintenance increases, etc.) going up significantly for San Jose as its own energy and jobs provider. San Jose will increasingly rely on contracted partners to control these inflating costs. Contractors claiming to be environmentally-minded and sustainability-promoting community partners must be vetted, now more than ever, to protect the future of our residents’ Human Rights:

- It is known that a current City of San Jose CCA contractor, *Calpine* of Texas, is ranked as a 2018 “Top 10” polluter! Additionally, *Calpine* has sub-contracted many supposed local-resident held jobs out of the area; such as transferring data management and call-center positions to *Answernet* of Pennsylvania.
- Contracted entities, like *Calpine*, have also been known to inflate their pricing; it is time to look deeper into these contractors’ true value of sustaining our city through jobs and environmentally conscience practices—and perhaps reallocating any savings to pressing community Human Services needs.
- San Jose must take note of how other Bay Area CCA stakeholder-cities have publicly turned down potential contractors – including *Calpine* – for poor performance and value. Through the help our city’s Director of Energy, Clean Energy Advisory Commission, and City Council, we can begin to reverse any adverse impacts upon our residents and their Environmental Sustainability Rights.

Greenhouse 100 Polluters Index (2018 Report, Based on 2015 Data)

Green House 100 Rank	Parent corporation or entity	2015 Emissions (CO2 equivalent metric tons)	Percentage of 2015 U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from all sources	EJ: Poor	EJ: Minority
1	Southern Company	104,564,333	1.6%	18%	
2	Duke Energy	101,026,260	1.5%	16%	
3	American Electric Power	100,138,543	1.5%	15%	
4	NRG Energy	83,519,721	1.3%	11%	
5	Berkshire Hathaway	79,264,742	1.2%	17%	
6	Dynegy	75,402,435	1.1%	13%	
7	U.S. Government	68,273,839	1.0%	18%	
8	Xcel Energy	55,909,583	0.8%	15%	
9	FirstEnergy	48,792,102	0.7%	16%	
10	Calpine	48,464,775	0.7%	17%	
11	Energy Future Holdings	45,431,114	0.7%	15%	
12	NextEra Energy	44,942,417	0.7%	16%	
13	Exxon Mobil	36,769,748	0.6%	18%	
14	Dominion Energy	36,612,552	0.6%	14%	
15	DTE Energy	35,498,582	0.5%	23%	

GREENHOUSE 100 POLLUTERS RESOURCES

Click on company name for facility and chemical details.

Search all EPA reported companies (not just top 100)

Technical Notes

Press Release

Watch Interview

Archives